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IV 2370446

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

IV 2370446

SUBJECTS: **Ligia Escalante**
DEPUTY, [redacted]

[redacted]
DEPUTY, [redacted]

DATE(S) / TIME OF INCIDENT: January 30, 2008 through November 11, 2014

ALLEGATIONS:

It is alleged while assigned to Men's Central Jail, Deputy Ligia Escalante (hereafter, referred to as Subject Escalante) developed a personal relationship with two inmates and violated the Department's Fraternization policy. It is also alleged that in September of 2013, Subject Escalante developed an intimate relationship with Witness [redacted], a convicted felon with an affiliation with the Mexican Mafia. Subject Escalante failed to report this relationship to a supervisor, and violated the Department's Prohibited Association policy. It is also alleged Deputy [redacted] (hereafter, referred to as Subject [redacted]) violated the Department's Prohibited Association policy by having documented contacts with [redacted].

[redacted]

POLICY VIOLATION:

[redacted] [redacted]

SYNOPSIS:

On November 13, 2013, Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau conducted a criminal inquiry of Subject Ligia Escalante [redacted] and her alleged association with inmates at Men's Central Jail. During the investigation it was discovered Subject Escalante received over 200 collect calls from inmates housed in Men's Central Jail between February of 2009 and November of 2010. It was also alleged Subject Escalante was involved in an intimate relationship with [redacted] a former Los Angeles County Inmate, housed at Men's Central Jail in 2007. Witness Negrete's past criminal record included [redacted] Witness [redacted] served two prison terms and is known for his association with the San Gabriel street gang, "SanGra."

During the Internal Criminal Investigation, surveillance of Subject Escalante and Witness [redacted] was conducted. It was discovered during surveillance, Witness [redacted] was moving money for a documented Mexican Mafia leader, [redacted] and members of his family were incarcerated in Federal Prison during this investigation. For further information regarding the Internal Criminal Investigation, refer to **[Exhibit A].**

On October 31, 2014, Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau Lieutenant Kevin Lloyd closed the criminal investigation on Subject Escalante. The allegations in his investigation regarding any criminal activity committed by Subject Escalante remained unsubstantiated. The case was forwarded to Internal Affairs Bureau for an administrative investigation of the allegations for Fraternization and Prohibited Association.

After a review of the criminal investigation, the following information was obtained. The information was reviewed and researched via Department resources and through witness interviews.

In [redacted], Subject Escalante was assigned to Men's Central Jail and remained there for [redacted]. Subject Escalante was assigned on dayshift and worked the 2000 floor before transferring to patrol at [redacted] Sheriff's Station on [redacted]

During Subject Escalante's assignment on the 2000 floor, she provided two inmates, Witness [redacted] and [redacted], with her personal cellular phone number of [redacted] Both inmates, Witness [redacted] and [redacted] worked as jail house trusties on the 2000 floor. Both inmates had extensive criminal histories with multiple felony convictions.

Inmate [redacted] was arrested on February 06, 2008 for [redacted] Prior to this arrest, he had seven felony convictions for [redacted] He was housed on the 2000 floor in the Men's Central Jail on February 12, 2008, and remained there until he was transferred to the California Department of Corrections on June 14, 2009.

Witness [redacted] was arrested on October 20, 2007, for [redacted] He had past felony convictions for [redacted] He was a documented "Florencia 13" gang member with an alias of [redacted] He was housed in the Men's Central Jail on November 19, 2007 and was transferred to the 2000 floor on January 30, 2008. Witness [redacted] was convicted and transferred to the California Department of Corrections on May 26, 2008. He was subsequently arrested for a parole violation on

April 20, 2010 and housed in the Men's Central Jail. Within one month of his incarceration, Witness [redacted] began calling Subject Escalante's personal cell phone.

In November of 2013, during the Internal Criminal Investigation, Witness Deputy [redacted] was assigned to Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau was working with the Jail Violence Task Force. His primary duty was to monitor the Inmate Telephone Monitoring System [redacted] throughout the Los Angeles County Jails.

Lieutenant Kevin Lloyd, assigned to the Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau, provided Witness [redacted] with Subject Escalante's personal cell phone number [redacted] and tasked him with conducting an audit. The audit provided data which indicated (207) phone calls were made to Subject Escalante's cell phone from inmates housed within Men's Central Jail between February 2, 2009, and November 4, 2010.

In January of 2014, twenty-one of those (207) phone calls were obtained through Global Tel Link Corporation, a company which stores data from [redacted] The recordings were provided to the Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau for further review and investigation. A detailed call report provided dates and times the phone calls were made, if they were completed or not, and the length of the conversations. For a list of these collect calls, refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 9-13].**

The data also provided specific telephone numbers within the Men's Central Jail facility which are traceable to certain cells, floors and/or dayrooms. Witness [redacted] and [redacted] movement and housing location within Men's Central Jail was consistent with the locations from where these telephone calls originated, on those specific dates.

Witness [redacted] reviewed those calls and noted the conversations were spoken primarily in Spanish and part English. Witness Deputy [redacted] who was also assigned to [redacted], was tasked with reviewing the phone calls and translating each conversation.

IAB NOTE: Inmate [redacted] phone calls made to Subject Escalante were captured in the [redacted] however the actual conversations were not recorded.

Witness [redacted] completed a detailed "Call Information Report" and wrote a brief synopsis for each call. For a copy of Witness [redacted] report, refer to **[Exhibit A, pages 130 to 175].** Two compact discs containing the complete recorded audio conversations are included in **[Exhibit A, Attachments #2, #3].**

After a review of the twenty-one audio recordings of telephone conversation, and a review of the detailed call reports completed by Witness [redacted] the following facts were noted:

Each call began with an automated voice recorded advisement informing the recipient of each call, the call was made by a Los Angeles County Inmate in Men's Central Jail.The recipient was also informed with instructions on how to deny or accept each phone call. Subject Escalante accepted each phone call after being informed the call was from a Los Angeles County Inmate who identified himself as [redacted] or [redacted]

The content of the conversations between Subject Escalante and Witness [redacted] were personal in nature and included discussions about visits, letters, sex, personal favors, and their personal relationship. They also discussed setting up a three way calling line, gang detectives, the possibility their conversation could be recorded, and future plans when Witness [redacted] was released from custody.

On **May 6, 2010 during a call made at 1611 Hours**, Subject Escalante questioned Witness [redacted] as to why he did not visit her when he was released from custody. Witness [redacted] tells Subject Escalante he was calling her about the letter she wrote him stating that he was scandalous for not visiting her.

On **May 6, 2010, during a phone call made at 1620 Hours** Subject Escalante inquires as to why Witness [redacted] is in [redacted] He explained he was staying away from jail politics. Witness [redacted] explained he did not like the letter sent by Subject Escalante. Subject Escalante explained she only wanted to know what happened to him because he failed to visit her.

On **May 6, 2010 during a phone call at 1926 Hours**, Subject Escalante informs Witness [redacted] that she contacted his parole officer and portrayed herself as his cousin in an attempt to locate him while he was released. Witness [redacted] requested Subject Escalante get a P.O. Box so that he could write her back. He then questioned her as to why she mentioned the money she placed on his books. Subject Escalante stated she did not care about the money, she just wanted him to be aware of it. Subject Escalante gives Witness [redacted] three kisses over the phone and requested he call her back.

On **May 9, 2010, during a phone call made at 1141 Hours,** Witness [redacted] asks Subject Escalante if she contacted "the girl". Escalante replied yes and that "the girl" will be going to Wilmington for three weeks. He then tells Subject Escalante that when "the girl" visits him he will have her contact his people in Montebello. Witness [redacted] asks Subject Escalante to set up a P.O. Box in Montebello to which she agreed.

On **May 10, 2010, during a phone call made at 1901 Hours**, Subject Escalante speaks about "the girl" and [redacted] and that she actually received a text from "the girl" asking her if she wanted to set up the address. They speak about their relationship going on for years and how no one has caught them. Inmate [redacted] informs Subject Escalante that he is helping out the "gang cops" and that he should be out in a year or two. Escalante informs him no one is going to help him get out of jail because they are just "bullshitting" him.

On **May 13, 2010, during a phone call made at 1614 Hours**, Witness [redacted] explains he was recently housed upstairs. Subject Escalante warns Witness [redacted] to be careful about his phone calls being monitored. Subject Escalante explains how deputies move inmates to different housing locations to monitor their phone calls. During this phone conversation Subject Escalante identifies herself to someone else while on the phone. She provided her full name, date of birth and Los Angeles County employee number.

On **May 22, 2010, during a phone call made at 1304 Hours**, Witness [redacted] explains he was transferred to Module 3500. He stated he told deputies in the 3500 Module not to set him up in there and to just give him a "straight up fight without being blindsided."

On **May 29, 2010, during a phone call made at 1959 Hours**, Subject Escalante asks Witness [redacted] if "[redacted]" can hook him up with a three way phone line. Witness [redacted] initially said no, but later states he will ask him about the three way phone line. Witness [redacted] inquires if Subject Escalante did something for him. She informs him she took care of it.

On **June 2, 2010, during a phone call made at 2007 Hours**, Witness [redacted] instructs Subject Escalante to contact [redacted]" girl and have her help her set up the three way calling line. Subject Escalante replies, she already knows how to set up the phone lines by forwarding the calls to a specific number.

On **June 4, 2010, during a phone call made at 1153 Hours**, Inmate [redacted] confirms the three way line (#[redacted]) is connected and set up for their use.

On **June 8, 2010, during a phone call made at 1819 Hours**, Subject Escalante and Witness [redacted] discuss their three way phone line and calling it to ensure it is still working and that they get at least three weeks of use out of it.

> IAB NOTE: **In 2008, Los Angeles County inmates fraudulently set up three way calling lines to avoid high fees incurred by friends or family members. Several phone companies sustained a large financial loss behind the scheme. For further information, see [Exhibit B].**

During the Internal Criminal investigation, Lieutenant Lloyd received information Subject Escalante was having an on-going personal relationship with [redacted]. Witness [redacted] is a multiple convicted felon and self-admitted member of the criminal street gang "SanGra", who goes by the moniker of [redacted] A video documenting his past criminal history and gang association with "SanGra" was produced in a video "Barrio Blood". For further information see video **[Exhibit A, Attachment #1].**

Witness [redacted] has a criminal record including felony convictions for [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was [redacted]

A records check revealed [redacted] was in custody at Men's Central Jail (Modules 2101, 3400, 3401) from December 21, 2007, to May 29, 2008. Subject Escalante was assigned to Men's Central Jail from [redacted]

Internal Criminal Investigators assigned to the [redacted] conducted surveillance of Subject Escalante. The team was able to document Subject Escalante's activity and her relationship with Witness [redacted] between December 12, 2013 and March 19, 2014, via video and photographs. Refer to **[Exhibit A, Attachment #4 and #5].**

During the surveillance of Subject Escalante and Witness [redacted] Internal Criminal Investigators learned Witness [redacted] was acting as a secretary or facilitator for Mexican Mafia member [redacted] [redacted] was validated as a federal Mexican Mafia prison gang member and was incarcerated at the United States Penitentiary in Waymart, Pennsylvania.

Internal Criminal Investigators and Sergeant Robert Lyons from Major Crimes Bureau, conducted a joint investigation of Witness [redacted] and [redacted] involvement in a criminal conspiracy with members of the Mexican Mafia. Major Crimes Bureau Investigators confirmed Subject Escalante was involved in a personal relationship with Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] often stayed at Subject Escalante's residence and she often drove him to various locations.

On September 4, 2014, Sergeant Robert Lyons from Major Crimes Bureau, Prison Gang Unit and the San Gabriel Valley Safe Street Gang Task Force served a warrant at Witness [redacted] apartment. Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau's Lieutenant Lloyd and Special Agent [redacted] interviewed Witness [redacted] The internal criminal investigations interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job #47720. The following is a summary of that interview:

Witness [redacted] was questioned about his affiliation with the Mexican Mafia and his relationship with [redacted] When asked about his association with [redacted] and sending money to several family members, Witness [redacted] stated he has known [redacted] for years and was only helping out [redacted]

Witness [redacted] explained several [redacted] family members were incarcerated in prison. He divided up funds provided to him by another family member, [redacted] and delivered money to different family members as a favor to [redacted] He denied knowing the origin of where money came from. Witness [redacted] stated he spoke to [redacted] routinely and she would visit him at his place of employment.

When asked about Subject Escalante and what her involvement was with him, their relationship and her driving him around to different locations, Witness [redacted] stated he was not delivering narcotics, only money. He also said Subject Escalante was aware of phone calls he made to [redacted] and he informed her he was helping out [redacted] wife, [redacted] According to Witness [redacted], Subject Escalante thought his actions would "back fire" on him.

Witness [redacted] expressed his concern about his relationship with Subject Escalante after co-workers warned her about associating with him.

When questioned about his gang association and lifestyle, Witness [redacted] stated he had changed his life and was no longer affiliated with "SanGra". He said the producers of "Barrio Blood" wanted the video to portray his gang lifestyle. Witness [redacted] stated he went along with their request because he was happy they were documenting his tattoo work.

Witness [redacted] was questioned about going out with Subject Escalante, Subject [redacted] and [redacted] Witness [redacted] said he went out with Subject Escalante and Subject [redacted], and [redacted] but claimed they did not know [redacted] history. Lieutenant Lloyd asked Witness [redacted] if he recalled a conversation with [redacted] during which time he warns Witness [redacted] about bringing deputies around him. Witness [redacted] stated he remembered the conversation.

In addition to the conversation with Witness [redacted] informs an unidentified female friend, via a phone conversation, about his night out with [redacted] and an Asian looking female who identified herself as a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy. Refer to **[Exhibit A, Attachment #7].**

> **IAB NOTE: A photograph of Subject Escalante, Subject [redacted] and Witness [redacted] was recovered from an Instagram account.**

INVESTIGATION:

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the below personnel and witness. Following is a summary of their interviews. For more information and precise wording, see the attached verbatim interview transcriptions.

[redacted]

On March 9, 2015, Sergeants Mark Lopez and Jose Garcia from Internal Affairs Bureau interviewed Witness [redacted] an inmate at Corcoran State Prison. The interview was conducted at Corcoran State Prison. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 45147. The following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] is serving a seven year sentence for [redacted] Witness [redacted] stated he was an inmate housed at Men's Central Jail in 2010. Witness [redacted] admitted he was from the criminal street gang "Florencia 13" and is known as [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated he knew Subject Escalante back in 2008 when he worked as her Trusty on the 2000 floor in Men's Central Jail. Witness [redacted] recalled a time when he was fired as a trusty on the 2000 floor and transferred to a different floor. Subject Escalante did him a favor by allowing him to keep his trusty job on the floor he was transferred to.

Witness [redacted] stated he met Subject Escalante at Men's Central Jail and did not know her prior to his arrest in 2008. Witness [redacted] stated he talked with Subject Escalante approximately 150 times for various reasons (escort during movement, being given cleaning directions) and their conversations were in regard to jail procedures and nothing personal.

Witness [redacted] denied Subject Escalante gave him her cellular phone number and he denied he ever called or spoke to Subject Escalante on her cell phone.

Sergeant Lopez played Witness [redacted] several samples of the recorded phone calls he made to Subject Escalante in May of 2010. Witness [redacted] denied the male caller was him. He explained that he does not go by the name [redacted] and he is known as [redacted] or [redacted]

IAB NOTE: On May 10, 2010, Call [redacted], the caller identified himself as [redacted] and Subject Escalante addressed him as [redacted] later in the conversation.

Inmate [redacted] denied Subject Escalante ever wrote him letters, sent him care packages, or put money on his books while he was in custody and he was adamant he did not have an intimate or personal relationship with her.

Witness [redacted]

On July 21, 2015, Sergeants Mark Lopez and Daniel Peacock from Internal Affairs Bureau interviewed Witness [redacted] The interview was conducted at the West

Hollywood Sheriff's Station. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 47028. The following is a summary of that interview.

Witness [redacted] stated the last time he was arrested and was at the Men's County Jail was in 2007 or 2008. Witness [redacted] stated he did not meet Subject Escalante during the time he was in custody at Men's Central Jail. Witness [redacted] stated he met Subject Escalante in 2013, at the place of his employment [redacted] at which time he completed tattoo work on her body. After receiving the tattoo, Subject Escalante and Witness [redacted] exchanged telephone numbers and remained in contact with one another through text messaging.

Witness [redacted] thought Subject Escalante was a nice person and invited her out to several of his tattoo movie premiers. They established a personal intimate relationship which lasted for approximately a year. Witness [redacted] stated Subject Escalante was assigned to Pico Rivera Station during the time he had a relationship with her.

Witness [redacted] stated he told Subject Escalante about his past drug problem and his felony drug convictions. He did not inform her about a past burglary conviction. Witness [redacted] stated he did not talk about his past gang affiliation with Subject Escalante. He stated his past gang affiliation was obvious and Subject Escalante was able to see it, but he never spoke of his past involvement with the street gang "SanGra" because that was in his past and he had turned his life around.

Instagram photographs from **[Exhibit A, pages 176, 177, 178, 181, 182, 183, 192, 193]** were shown to Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] confirmed they were of him and Subject Escalante.

When asked if he knew Subject [redacted] Witness [redacted] explained he could not remember the name for certain. He confirmed he did meet one of Subject Escalante's friends who he tattooed. He recalled she previously worked at Pico Rivera Station but transferred to Men's Central Jail, and possibly worked with the chaplain's office.

Witness [redacted] stated the issue of their relationship in regards to his criminal past and Subject Escalante's profession was brought to his attention by a friend of his. He did not believe it was wrong until then. He stated Subject Escalante had told him somebody spoke to her about their relationship but he did not know who. Witness [redacted] stated his relationship ended with Subject Escalante because he was much older than her and he did not want kids or marriage.

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Witness [redacted]

On August 12, 2015, Sergeant Mark Lopez from Internal Affairs Bureau interviewed Witness [redacted] at the old San Dimas Patrol Station. The interview was digitally recorded and a copy of the transcribed interview is provided in the Witness Interview section. The following is a summary of the interview.

Witness [redacted] is currently assigned to Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau working the [redacted]. Witness [redacted] stated in November of 2013, Internal Criminal Investigation Lieutenant Kevin Lloyd gave him a phone number [redacted] to run through the [redacted] The [redacted] results indicated 207 calls were made from within the Los Angeles County Jail System to Subject Escalante's cell phone [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated the [redacted] report showed the calls were made between 2009 and 2010. Witness [redacted] was shown Exhibit A, page 130, of the ICIB "Call Information" report. Witness [redacted] recognized the "Call Information" report. He explained his partner Witness [redacted] generated the report. Witness [redacted] stated once the "Call Information" report was completed, it was given to Lieutenant Lloyd and that was the end of their input to the investigation.

Witness [redacted]

On August 12, 2015, Sergeant Mark Lopez from Internal Affairs Bureau interviewed Witness [redacted] at the old San Dimas Patrol Station. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 47275. The following is a summary of that interview:

Witness [redacted] is currently assigned to Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau working the [redacted] Witness [redacted] stated in November of 2013, Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau provided him and his partner, Deputy [redacted] a phone number [redacted] to run through the [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated the results indicated approximately twenty phone calls made from Men's Central Jail to Subject Escalante's cell phone [redacted] were recorded. Witness [redacted] stated he reviewed the audio recorded calls. The calls were mostly in Spanish. Witness [redacted] a certified Spanish speaker, translated a brief summary of the phone calls into English. Witness [redacted] documented the translation on the "Call Information" reports in **[Exhibit A, pages 130-175].**

Witness [redacted] stated he was able to identify who was making the calls to Subject Escalante's cell phone by listening to the conversation and the caller identifying himself

and by using the Jail Housing Location System to track the inmates who used the phone from that location.

Once the detail call report was completed, Witness [redacted] forwarded the information back to Internal Criminal Investigations, Lieutenant Kevin Lloyd.

Witness [redacted]

On September 24, 2015, Sergeant [redacted] and Lieutenant Kelly Adler conducted an interview of Witness [redacted] at the Audit and Accountability office, also known as the I.M.P.A.A.C. office. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 47676. The following is a summary of that interview:

Witness [redacted] has been employed with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the past 36 years. She is a secretary, currently assigned to the I.M.P.A.A.C. unit. Past assignments of Witness [redacted] have been [redacted] She is the [redacted] of Subject Ligia Escalante.

Witness [redacted] was provided with a "Witness Admonition" form and explained the reason for our interview. Witness [redacted] stated she understood the form and the reason for the interview. She attached Witness Admonition form in the Miscellaneous Section of this investigation.

Witness [redacted] was asked if she was aware of her [redacted] association with inmates housed within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Jail. She stated she was not. She was asked if she was aware of her recent relationship with Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] stated Subject Escalante is a private person and she has no knowledge of who she is dating. They may ask each other how the other is doing, but she is not privileged to know who she is dating.

Witness [redacted] was asked if she had ever met Witness [redacted] if she had ever been out with her [redacted] and Witness [redacted] or if he had ever been over to her home. Witness [redacted] stated, "Never." She went on to explain that her family is "Old School" and traditional. Unless the individual was Subject Escalante's husband, he would not be invited into their home.

Witness [redacted] was asked if Subject Escalante ever inquired about any of the on-going internal criminal or administrative investigations that have passed through her place of employment. She was also asked if she had ever provided Subject Escalante with any confidential information with regards to those investigation. Witness [redacted] stated she has never done so and never would.

Subject Ligia Escalante

On July 29, 2015, Sergeants Mark Lopez and Richard Martinez from Internal Affairs Bureau interviewed Subject Ligia Escalante at the Internal Affairs office. Subject Escalante was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander with Green and Shinee. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 47128. The following is a summary of that interview.

Subject Escalante was hired in April of 2001. Her first assignment was [redacted] Subject Escalante worked there until [redacted] Subject Escalante transferred to [redacted] and worked there until [redacted] In [redacted], Subject Escalante transferred to her current assignment [redacted] Sheriff's Station.

Subject Escalante stated her Verizon cellular phone number is [redacted] Subject Escalante has had that same cell phone number for the past fifteen years.

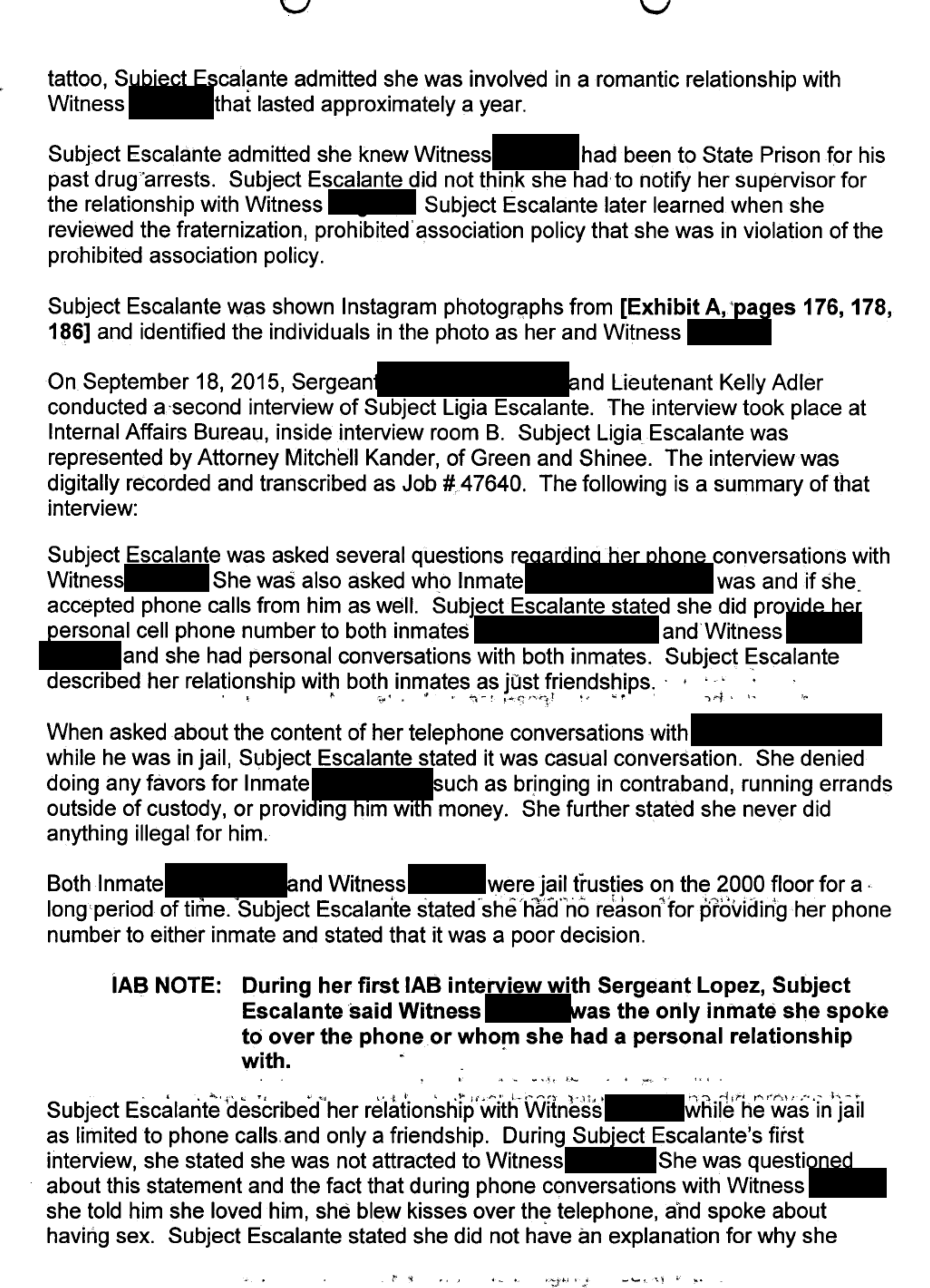
Subject Escalante stated she knew an inmate named [redacted] Subject Escalante met him during the time she was assigned at Men's Central Jail. During the time she was assigned at Men's Central Jail Subject Escalante admitted she gave Witness [redacted] her cell phone number. She did not provide a reason as to why she gave him her number, but stated it was poor judgement on her part. Subject Escalante admitted she never informed any of her supervisors she was in communication with Witness [redacted] from Men's Central Jail.

Sergeant Lopez played a sample of six audio recordings recovered from the 2010, [redacted]. The calls were made from Men's Central Jail to Subject Escalante's cell phone [redacted] Subject Escalante admitted she was the person who received the phone calls and Witness [redacted] was the person who called her from Men's Central Jail. Subject Escalante stipulated that the remaining fourteen audio phone calls and the conversations from 2010, were her and Witness [redacted] Subject Escalante admitted she received these phone calls from Witness [redacted] freely and voluntarily.

Subject Escalante did not recall how many total phone calls she received from Witness [redacted] Subject Escalante did not recall if she sent letters to or if she purchased gift packages for Witness [redacted]

Subject Escalante was shown a booking photo in **[Exhibit A, page 14].** Subject Escalante identified the person in the photo as being Witness [redacted] Subject Escalante stated she stopped talking to Witness [redacted] Inmate at the end of 2010, when he left Men's Central Jail and went to State Prison.

Subject Escalante admitted she knew Witness [redacted] Subject Escalante met him in March of 2012, when she went to his tattoo shop for a tattoo. After receiving her



tattoo, Subject Escalante admitted she was involved in a romantic relationship with Witness [redacted] that lasted approximately a year.

Subject Escalante admitted she knew Witness [redacted] had been to State Prison for his past drug arrests. Subject Escalante did not think she had to notify her supervisor for the relationship with Witness [redacted] Subject Escalante later learned when she reviewed the fraternization, prohibited association policy that she was in violation of the prohibited association policy.

Subject Escalante was shown Instagram photographs from **[Exhibit A, pages 176, 178, 186]** and identified the individuals in the photo as her and Witness [redacted]

On September 18, 2015, Sergeant [redacted] and Lieutenant Kelly Adler conducted a second interview of Subject Ligia Escalante. The interview took place at Internal Affairs Bureau, inside interview room B. Subject Ligia Escalante was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander, of Green and Shinee. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed as Job # 47640. The following is a summary of that interview:

Subject Escalante was asked several questions regarding her phone conversations with Witness [redacted] She was also asked who Inmate [redacted] was and if she accepted phone calls from him as well. Subject Escalante stated she did provide her personal cell phone number to both inmates [redacted] and Witness [redacted] and she had personal conversations with both inmates. Subject Escalante described her relationship with both inmates as just friendships.

When asked about the content of her telephone conversations with [redacted] while he was in jail, Subject Escalante stated it was casual conversation. She denied doing any favors for Inmate [redacted] such as bringing in contraband, running errands outside of custody, or providing him with money. She further stated she never did anything illegal for him.

Both Inmate [redacted] and Witness [redacted] were jail trusties on the 2000 floor for a long period of time. Subject Escalante stated she had no reason for providing her phone number to either inmate and stated that it was a poor decision.

> **IAB NOTE: During her first IAB interview with Sergeant Lopez, Subject Escalante said Witness [redacted] was the only inmate she spoke to over the phone or whom she had a personal relationship with.**

Subject Escalante described her relationship with Witness [redacted] while he was in jail as limited to phone calls and only a friendship. During Subject Escalante's first interview, she stated she was not attracted to Witness [redacted] She was questioned about this statement and the fact that during phone conversations with Witness [redacted] she told him she loved him, she blew kisses over the telephone, and spoke about having sex. Subject Escalante stated she did not have an explanation for why she

made those comments, it was only a conversation and she told him what she believed he wanted to hear. She said those statements made to him were not an accurate reflection of their relationship and was adamant that she was not attracted to him.

Subject Escalante said ninety percent of the statements she made over the phone to Inmate [redacted] were false. Although she made comments that she contacted his probation officer, spoke about [redacted] or stated she spoke with [redacted]" girl, she stated she never contacted his probation officer. Subject Escalante stated she never knew [redacted]" or his girl. She never set up a P.O. Box for Witness [redacted] she never had a sexual relationship with Witness [redacted] and she never ran errands for him or did anything criminal.

> **IAB NOTE: IAB investigators attempted to contact Probation Officer [redacted] for an interview, but were unsuccessful.**

> **IAB NOTE: IAB Investigators conducted a query search of Subject Escalante and her affiliation with any P.O. Box. The search returned with no results.**

Subject Escalante was informed about a recorded phone conversation with Witness [redacted] wherein he asked about her letter she wrote to him, the purchasing of calling cards and care packages, and setting up a three way line to avoid paying high fees for the collect calls. When reminded about those recorded conversations and questioned about them, Subject Escalante was adamant that she did not remember those conversations or if she in fact committed any of those acts for Witness [redacted]

When asked about another recorded phone conversation that involved Witness [redacted] accusing her of having a relationship with another inmate named [redacted] or [redacted]" Subject Escalante said she did not recall that conversation. When reminded that she told Witness [redacted] that was her "girl [redacted]" Subject Escalante said [redacted] was an old friend and not employed with the Department. Subject Escalante could not remember [redacted] last name and claimed to no longer have [redacted] telephone number.

Subject Escalante stated she met Witness [redacted] through Deputy [redacted] who referred Witness [redacted] for tattoo work. After completing the tattoo work, Subject Escalante established a personal relationship with Witness [redacted]

Subject Escalante stated she was not initially aware of Witness [redacted] criminal past but learned of it during the course of her relationship. Subject Escalante stated she was not aware she was violating the Department's Prohibited Association policy during their relationship and she continued dating Witness [redacted] She said had she known the policy she would have ended her relationship with Witness [redacted] and not jeopardized her employment.

When asked if she ever drove [redacted] anywhere, Subject Escalate adamantly denied driving [redacted] anywhere.

Subject Escalante said she was aware that there was a criminal investigation that may have involved her. She was asked if she recalled seeing ICIB investigators arrive at Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station on March 20, 2014 while she was working. Subject Escalante said she would not have known anyone at the station was from ICIB. When shown a copy of her "Deputy's Daily Work Sheet" (DDWS), dated March 20, 2014 that indicated she ran herself [redacted] she said she did not recall running herself.

IAB NOTE: [redacted] is used to run persons for wants and warrants

Subject Escalante was asked about Subject [redacted] association with [redacted] and Witness [redacted] and if they had ever been out together. Subject Escalante stated Subject [redacted] met Witness [redacted] but they did not all go out together. Subject Escalante stated she does not know [redacted] and has never been out with him.

Subject Escalante was asked if she ever requested investigative information from her [redacted] Witness [redacted] or if at any time was informed by her [redacted] about this investigation. She stated she was not. When asked if Witness [redacted] knew about her relationship with [redacted] she stated she never told her [redacted] about him.

At the conclusion of her IAB interview with Sergeant [redacted] and Lieutenant Adler, Subject Escalante was asked if she was aware of the Department's policy on Fraternization. She said she was aware of the policy and what Fraternization meant, citing in her own words, what the policy stands for. When asked if she was aware of the policy and it's meaning at the time she gave both Inmate [redacted] and Witness Inmate [redacted] her telephone number and accepted their phone calls from jail, Subject Escalante said she was. When asked if she felt as if she knowingly violated the Department's policy on Fraternization as it relates to Inmate [redacted] and Witness Inmate [redacted] she said she did.

Subject Escalante was also asked if she was aware of the Department's policy on Prohibited Association. She said she was made aware of Prohibited Association by her ALADS attorney, Mitchell Kander. She denied having knowledge of Prohibited Association at the time she dated Witness [redacted] She said she now understands that being in a dating relationship with him violated said policy and claims that, had she known it was a violation of policy, she would have not continued with the relationship.



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

JIM MCDONNELL, SHERIFF

October 16, 2015

Deputy Ligia Escalante, [redacted]

Dear Deputy Escalante:

You are hereby notified that it is the intention of the Sheriff's Department to discharge you from your position of Deputy Sheriff, Item No. 2708A, with this Department, effective the close of business November 5, 2015.

An investigation under IAB file number IV2370446, conducted by Internal Affairs Bureau, coupled with your own statements, has established the following:

1. [redacted]



211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

A Tradition of Service

Since 1850

[redacted]

[redacted]

2. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. [redacted]

4. That in violation of the Manual of Policy and Procedures Section 3-01/040.75, Failure to Make Statements and/or Making False Statements During Departmental Internal Investigations, on or about July 29, 2015 and/or September 18, 2015, you failed to make full, complete and/or truthful statements during the Internal Affairs investigation as evidenced by, but not limited to:

   a. Denying to have driven Mr. [redacted] to different locations, which was contradicted by the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau Investigators; and/or,

b. Stating that your relationship with Inmate [redacted] was a friendship and/or limited to phone calls, however in recorded phone conversations with Inmate [redacted] you stated to have loved him, talked about having sex, doing him favors and blowing him kisses over the phone; and/or,

c. Stating during your second interview on September 18, 2015, that you did not have any association with Inmate [redacted] and/or words to that effect.

Additional facts for this decision are set forth in the Disposition Worksheet, Investigative Summary and Investigative Packet which are incorporated herein by reference.

You may respond to the intended action orally or in writing. In the event that you choose to respond orally to these charges, you have already been scheduled to meet with Chief Buddy Goldman, on November 5, 2015, at 1530 hours, at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station, 6631 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California 90660. If you are unable to appear at the scheduled time and wish to schedule some other time prior to November 5, 2015, for your oral response, please call Chief Goldman's secretary at [redacted], for an appointment.

If you choose to respond in writing, please call Chief Goldman's secretary to cancel your scheduled appointment, and send your response to the facts contained in this letter to Chief Goldman's office by no later than November 5, 2015.

Unless you are currently on some other type of authorized leave, pursuant to Rule 16.01 of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission Rules, effective immediately, you are on paid administrative leave which will continue during the fifteen (15) business days you have to respond to the intended discharge or until the conclusion of your pre-disciplinary hearing. If you are presently on an authorized leave, that leave will continue during the fifteen (15) business days you have to respond to the intended discharge, or until the conclusion of your pre-disciplinary hearing.

Failure to respond to this Letter of Intent within fifteen (15) business days will be considered a waiver of your right to respond and will result in the imposition of the discipline indicated herein.

If you did not receive the investigative material on which your discipline is based at the time you were served with this correspondence, you may contact the Internal Affairs Bureau at [redacted] to obtain a copy of the case file.

The Sheriff's Department reserves the right to amend and/or add to this letter.

Sincerely,

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF

Donnie L. Mauldin, Captain
Internal Affairs Bureau

Note: Attached for your convenience are excerpts of the applicable areas of the Manual of Policy and Procedures.

DLM:LDL:ll

cc: Advocacy Unit
Employee Relations Unit
Chief Buddy Goldman – South Patrol Division
Internal Affairs Bureau
(File # IAB IV2370446)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This agreement is entered into between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (hereinafter referred to as "Department") and Ligia Escalante, (hereinafter referred to as "Ms. Escalante"), Employee Number [redacted]

RECITALS

The Department and Ms. Escalante are interested parties in the investigation under Internal Affairs Bureau No. IV2370446. Both desire to resolve all disputes arising as the result of that investigation, to avoid litigation and further administrative process upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

NOW THEREFORE, the Department and Ms. Escalante for and in consideration of the mutual Covenants herein, agree as follow:

1. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Department will rescind the Letter of Intent dated October 16, 2015. In lieu of discharge, the Department will allow Ms. Escalante to resign. Ms. Escalante understands, agrees, and acknowledges that she will submit her resignation from the position of Deputy Sheriff, Item No. 2708A, to the Department effective the close of business on December 1, 2015. The resignation will be attached to this Agreement as Exhibit "A."

2. Ms. Escalante will be paid through the close of business on November 5, 2015. The time period from November 6, 2015 through December 1, 2015, will be deemed an approved leave of absence without pay. Ms. Escalante will receive no back pay, no benefits, and no financial or other consideration as a result of entering into and/or executing this agreement. There will be no issues of back pay.

3. Upon execution of this Agreement, Ms. Escalante understands, agrees, and represents that she will not seek employment or be employed at any time by the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after submission of her resignation.

4. The Department's PPI index will state "Founded, Resigned" under IAB No. IV2370446.

5. In addition, the Internal Affairs Bureau investigation case IV2370446 will be sealed and maintained by the Internal Affairs Bureau with a note indicating that the investigation can only be opened by Order of the Court, Order of the Sheriff, or upon Ms. Escalante's written authorization.

6. Also, Ms. Escalante agrees, understands, and acknowledges she <u>will not</u> receive:

   a. CCW endorsement pursuant to California Penal Code §12027
   b. Sheriff's Department retirement credential or badge.

7. The parties understand that a prospective employer of Ms. Escalante may contact the Department to request information pertaining to Ms. Escalante's employment with the Department. The Department will only inform such prospective employers of (1) Ms. Escalante's last position held with the Department and, (2) her out-of-service date, unless the Department is provided with a signed waiver and/or release from Ms. Escalante authorizing the release of additional employment information.

8. Moreover, Ms. Escalante agrees to waive all rights in IAB Case Number IV2370446 pursuant to <u>Skelly v. State Personnel Board (1975) 15 Cal.3d 194 Cal.Rptr. 14.</u>

9. Ms. Escalante agrees to waive any and all further administrative or judicial remedies with respect to this matter and the resignation set forth herein, including but not limited to the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission or the Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission and any court of law.

10. The parties further agree that this settlement shall not be considered, cited or used in any future dispute between the Department and any other Department employee as establishing precedent or past employment practice. This Agreement resolves the dispute between Ms. Escalante and the Department, and is not to be applied to any other facts or disputes.

11. In consideration of the terms and conditions set forth herein, Ms. Escalante agrees to fully release, acquit and forever discharge the County, their heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representatives from any and all liability whatsoever for any and all claims arising out of or connected with the employment relationship between the County and Ms. Escalante concerning the subject matter referred to herein. Additionally, Ms. Escalante

specifically acknowledges that she has not been the subject of discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation in any form, including but not limited to discrimination based upon age, race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status or sex, and that he has no claim against the Department for any such discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation, whether any such claim is presently known or not known to her.

12. Ms. Escalante further agrees, with regard to this matter, to relinquish and expressly waives all rights conferred upon her by the provisions of California Civil Code Section 1542, which reads as follows:

> "A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his/her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him/her must have materially affected his/her settlement with the debtor."

13. The parties agree that this Agreement may be specifically enforced in court and may be used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding in which any of the parties allege a breach of this Agreement.

14. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. A photocopy of facsimile transmission of the agreement, including signatures, shall be deemed to constitute evidence of the Agreement having been executed.

15. The date of the last signature placed hereon shall hereinafter be known as the "date of execution" and the effective date" of this Agreement.

16. The parties agree that this is the complete Settlement Agreement and that no other promises have been made by either party. The parties further agree that no changes may be made to this Settlement Agreement unless both parties reduce the changes to writing and sign them.

17. Each party hereto represents and agrees that he/she or it has carefully read and fully understands all of the provisions of the Agreement, and that he/she or it is voluntarily, without any duress or undue influence on the part of or on behalf of any party, entering into this Agreement.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
MS. LIGIA ESCALANTE, [redacted]

I have read the forgoing Settlement Agreement and I accept and agree to the provisions contained therein and hereby execute it voluntarily and with full understanding of its consequences. I further acknowledge that I have been afforded the opportunity to consult with legal counsel prior to signing this agreement

Ms. Ligia Escalante, [redacted]

11-20-15
Date

As to form only:

Mitchell Kander, Attorney
Green & Shinee

11/24/15
Date

For the Department:

BUDDY GOLDMAN, CHIEF
SOUTH PATROL DIVISION

NOV. 24, 2015
Date